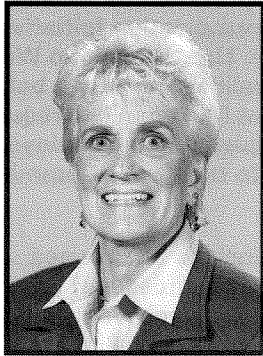


# Hammerstrom's

for the people  
in the 17th Senate District

# Hotline



State Senator  
**Bev Hammerstrom**  
State Capitol • Lansing, MI 48913  
1-888-477-8238  
[www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom](http://www.senate.michigan.gov/hammerstrom)

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**TRADITIONAL MACKINAC BRIDGE WALK TO ADD NEW EVENT** For the first time in its history, the annual Mackinac Bridge Labor Day Walk will include a separate "fun run" with approximately 300 joggers from around the state. The inaugural event is sponsored by the Governor's Council on Physical Fitness, Health and Sports, Farm Bureau Insurance, and the Michigan Department of Community Health. All runners must be pre-registered and pre-qualified to participate. At least one resident from each of Michigan's 83 counties will be chosen as their county's "fitness ambassador." As ambassador, he or she will be invited to participate in special events associated with the Labor Day Bridge Walk. Runners will be selected in early August and notified in writing. There is no registration fee. For more information about the run, including how to register and the rules of the event, please visit the Governor's Council website at [www.michiganfitness.org](http://www.michiganfitness.org), or call, toll-free, 1-800-4FIT-MICH. The deadline to enter is July 30.

**DID YOU KNOW?** In 2003, more than 58,000 people participated in the five-mile annual Labor Day Bridge Walk.

**SENATE MOVES TWO BILLS TO PROTECT CONSUMERS** The Michigan Senate recently passed two bills in an effort to increase consumer protection. Senate Bill 1114 would create the Prize and Sweepstakes Act, aiming to prevent aggressive marketing by sweepstakes firms. The bill would require sweepstakes solicitors to provide official rules to each individual solicited; not require payment or any other consideration to be eligible for a prize; not represent that a person is a winner or has already won unless they have; provide a clear and conspicuous statement that no purchase is necessary to enter; and not represent that an entry accompanied by an order is eligible for more prizes. Senate Bill 1115 would amend the Charitable Organizations and Solicitations Act, targeting unscrupulous organizations posing as charitable organizations. The bill would replace the current licensing system with a system of registration and reporting. SB 1115 also would create new fees and tiered penalties for violations. Both bills have been referred to the House Committee on Commerce.

**WHEELS TO WORK** The Senate also approved a bill that would eliminate the sales tax for people who receive donated vehicles from charitable organizations. The goal of the legislation is to help remove lack of transportation as an obstacle to getting a good-paying job. Goodwill Association of Michigan is developing a statewide transportation initiative to provide vehicles for families and individuals working toward independence and self-sufficiency. The "Wheels to Work" program takes qualified donated vehicles and repairs them. The vehicles then are sold to qualified buyers at below-market prices based upon the buyers' financial status and lack of transportation to work. Current Michigan law requires people to pay sales tax on the value of the vehicle they receive. Senate Bill 143 would require recipients to be employed at least 20 hours a week and keep their jobs after receiving the vehicle. SB 143 has been referred to the House Committee on Tax Policy.

**ABANDONED CARS CONSIDERED AS LITTER** The definition of litter would be expanded to include abandoned vehicles under a bill passed by the Senate last month. Senate Bill 1171 would amend the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act to define vehicles that are considered abandoned as litter. Under the Michigan Vehicle Code, vehicles are considered abandoned when they remain on public property or private property for a period of 48 hours, after a police agency or other governmental agency designated by the police agency has affixed a written notice to the vehicle. The bill would help law enforcement officials and towing companies to keep Michigan roads, fields, and forests clean of abandoned cars.

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If you would like to receive future issues of Hammerstrom's Hotline via e-mail, please contact me at [SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenBHammerstrom@senate.michigan.gov)